

JAMES HARRINGTON.

APRIL 13, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McPHERSON, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,  
made the following adverse

REPORT.

*The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the petition of James Harrington, report adversely to the prayer of the petitioner, for reasons given in the accompanying communication of the Secretary of the Interior, dated March 22, 1860.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
March 22, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to return the memorial of James Harrington, which was submitted to me with your letter of the 19th inst., and in reference thereto, to refer you to the accompanying copy of a communication addressed by me to the Hon. J. H. Reagan, on the 30th December, 1857, upon the same subject.

As then stated, Mr. Harrington is not one of the laborers regularly employed upon the public grounds, and hence the joint resolution of 18th August, 1856, does not cover his case. He was employed as a special watchman upon "reservation No. 2," at the rate of one dollar per day, as will more fully appear on reference to the "Blue Book" for 1857, (page 98,) and was paid out of appropriations made from year to year for taking care of that portion of the mall. Some months since, however, I authorized the Commissioner of Public Buildings to increase his compensation to six hundred dollars per annum, and he is now paid accordingly.—(See "Blue Book" for 1859, page 99.)

What he now asks, is to be paid the difference between one dollar per day and an annual salary of six hundred dollars, up to the time of the increased allowance thus authorized to be made him; but whether this shall be done or not is a question for Congress alone to determine. I certainly do not understand that he has any legal claim therefor upon the government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

HON. EDWARD MCPHERSON,  
*Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, House of Reps.*

